

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 15, 26 and 37 such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An occlusion device for occluding a left atrial appendage, the occlusion device comprising:

a center post having a proximal end and a distal end;

a plurality of ribs extending radially outward from the proximal end of the center post to the distal end of the center post to form a frame, wherein a diameter of the frame near the proximal end of the center post is greater than a diameter of the frame near the distal end of the center post and is shaped to securely fit within a left atrial appendage; and
a PVA foam sheet attached to the ribs, the sheet extending between the ribs and forming a sack shaped barrier supported by the ribs that is closed at the proximal end and extends toward the distal end a distance sufficient to close an entrance to the left atrial appendage and ~~such that a barrier is~~ to prevent blood from entering or exiting the left atrial appendage.

2. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 1 wherein the center post is formed of titanium.

3. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 1 wherein the center post comprises two segments.

4. (Original) The center post of claim 3 wherein a first segment of the center post comprises a pin and a second segment of the center post comprises a lumen and wherein the pin of the first segment connects with the lumen of the second segment.

5. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 1 wherein the center post further comprises holes through which the ribs attach.

6. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 1 wherein the center post is about 5 to about 40 mm long.

7. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 1 wherein the ribs are constructed of stranded wire.
8. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 7 wherein the stranded wire is heat shaped.
9. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 1 wherein the ribs are constructed of a single stranded wire.
10. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 9 wherein the stranded wire is heat shaped.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 1 wherein the sheet is attached to the ribs with sutures.
13. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 1 wherein the sheet is laminated to the ribs.
14. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 1 wherein the sheet is treated to be non-thrombogenic.
15. (Currently Amended) A collapsible occlusion device for insertion into a left atrial appendage of a human heart, the device comprising:
 - a center post having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein both the proximal end and the distal end comprise a plurality of holes;
 - a single stranded wire threaded through holes in the distal and proximal ends of the center post to form a plurality of ribs, wherein the plurality of ribs define a frame having a diameter near the proximal end of the center post that is larger than a diameter near the distal end of the center post and is shaped to securely fit within a left atrial appendage; and
 - a foam sheet attached to the plurality of ribs, the sheet extending between the ribs and forming a sack shaped barrier supported by the ribs that is closed at the proximal end

and extends toward the distal end a distance sufficient to close an entrance to the left atrial appendage and such that a barrier is formed to prevent blood from entering or exiting the left atrial appendage.

16. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 15 wherein the center post comprises a grasping knob.
17. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 15 wherein the center post is formed of titanium.
18. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 15 wherein the center post comprises two segments.
19. (Original) The center post of claim 18 wherein a first segment of the center post comprises a pin and a second segment of the center post comprises a lumen and wherein the pin of the first segment connects with the lumen of the second segment.
20. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 15 wherein the center post is about 5 to about 40 mm long.
21. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 15 wherein the ribs are heat shaped.
22. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 15 wherein the sheet is constructed of PVA foam.
23. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 15 wherein the sheet is attached to the ribs with sutures.
24. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 15 wherein the sheet is laminated to the ribs.
25. (Original) The occlusion device of claim 15 wherein the sheet is treated to be non-thrombogenic.

26. (Currently Amended) A left atrial appendage occlusion device comprising:

a center post comprising a proximal end, a distal end, and a graspable component;

a plurality of holes located in the proximal end of the center post;

a plurality of holes located in the distal end of the center post;

a single wire extending from the proximal end of the center post to the distal end of the center post and passing through holes in the distal end of the center post and proximal end of the center post to form a plurality of ribs, wherein the plurality of ribs define a frame having a diameter near the proximal end of the center post that is larger than a diameter near the distal end of the center post and is shaped to securely fit within a left atrial appendage; and

a foam sheet attached to the plurality of ribs, the sheet extending between the ribs and forming a sack shaped barrier supported by the ribs that is closed at the proximal end and extends toward the distal end a distance sufficient to close an entrance to the left atrial appendage and ~~such that a barrier is formed~~ to prevent blood from entering or exiting the left atrial appendage.

27. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 26 wherein the center post is formed of titanium.

28. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 26 wherein the center post comprises two segments.

29. (Previously presented) The center post of claim 28 wherein a first segment of the center post comprises a pin and a second segment of the center post comprises a lumen and wherein the pin of the first segment connects with the lumen of the second segment.

30. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 26 wherein the length of the center post is about 5 to about 40 mm long.

31. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 26 wherein the ribs are constructed of stranded wire.

32. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 26 wherein the ribs are heat shaped.

33. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 26 wherein the foam sheet is constructed of PVA foam.

34. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 26 wherein the foam sheet is attached to the ribs by sutures.

35. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 26 wherein the foam sheet is attached to the ribs by heat laminating.

36. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 26 wherein the foam sheet is treated to be non-thrombogenic.

37. (Currently Amended) An occlusion device for occluding a left atrial appendage, the occlusion device comprising:

- a center post having a proximal end and a distal end;

- a plurality of ribs extending radially outward from the proximal end of the center post to the distal end of the center post to create a generally pear shaped frame, wherein a diameter of the frame near the proximal end of the center post is greater than a diameter of the frame near the distal end of the center post and is shaped to securely fit within a left atrial appendage; and

- a sheet formed of a medical grade polymer attached to the ribs, the sheet extending between the ribs and forming a sack shaped barrier supported by the ribs that is closed at the proximal end and extends toward the distal end a distance sufficient to close an

entrance to the left atrial appendage and such that a barrier is formed to prevent blood from entering or exiting the left atrial appendage.

38. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 37 wherein the center post is formed of titanium.

39. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 37 wherein the center post comprises two segments.

40. (Previously presented) The center post of claim 37 wherein a first segment of the center post comprises a pin and a second segment of the center post comprises a lumen and wherein the pin of the first segment connects with the lumen of the second segment.

41. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 37 wherein the center post further comprises holes through which the ribs attach.

42. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 37 wherein the center post is about 5 to about 40 mm long.

43. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 37 wherein the ribs are constructed of a single stranded wire.

44. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 37 wherein the ribs are heat shaped.

45. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 37 wherein the sheet is constructed of PVA foam.

46. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 37 wherein the sheet is attached to the ribs with sutures.

47. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 37 wherein the sheet is laminated to the ribs.

48. (Previously presented) The occlusion device of claim 37 wherein the sheet is treated to be non-thrombogenic.

49-52. (Canceled)